

Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 30, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-79 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-79 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 18 have been canceled.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2004, for the above-identified patent application from October 30, 2004, through and including November 30, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tim Pyron, *Using Microsoft Project 4 for Windows*, 1994 (Pyron) in view of Joseph Marren, *Mergers and Acquisitions a Valuation Handbook*, 1994 ("Marren") and in further view of Ernst & Young, *Mergers and Acquisitions Second Edition*, 1994 (Ernst) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between the cited references and the present invention is that none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration wherein the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, and wherein the method includes automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality

of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user (emphasis added).

In fact, Pyron does not describe, teach or even mention automatically displaying a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed. Moreover, Pyron does not describe, teach or even mention a plurality of integration areas that are menu selections selectable by the user and that are not entered into the computer by the user.

Furthermore, with respect to displaying the pre-defined integration events, Pyron teaches away from the present invention. Pyron describes a system where a user enters certain tasks (i.e., not menu selections) that make up a project wherein the tasks are “defined” by the user at the time the tasks are inputted in the system. In contrast, the present invention recites automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user. In addition, neither Marren nor Ernst describe or suggest automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Moreover, as explained below in detail, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest displaying on the computer a detailed

explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, and wherein the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Furthermore, as explained below in detail, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest developing an acquisition integration project plan for a specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, wherein each selected pre-defined integration event is performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.

Pyron describes using a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4. Microsoft Project 4 includes a project planning function having a top-down approach or a bottom-up approach. For example, if a user uses the top-down approach, the user starts by identifying the major phases of a project and then adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created. All tasks having subordinate detail tasks under them are summary tasks. The computer application also enables a user to create a Gantt Chart displaying the duration of each task and a temporal relationship between tasks (see pages 96-97). Notably, Pyron does not describe developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and that provides the information to perform the acquisition integration. Moreover, Pyron does not describe or teach automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions. More specifically, Marren discusses how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition. Marren discusses that there are many factors to be considered when valuing an acquisition including the process by which the target company is being sold, the expected competition, the future profitability of the target, expected synergies, complex tax rules, alternate legal forms of effecting a transaction and accounting considerations. Marren also discusses the sale process, which is characterized as having five separate phases: (1) organization; (2) preparation of descriptive memorandum; (3) approaching potential buyers; (4) due diligence phase; and (5) negotiating definitive agreement and closing.

Ernst is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions including the topics of acquisition process and strategy, evaluating an acquisition candidate, due diligence, acquiring a public company, accounting principles, federal income tax considerations, and post merger integration. Notably, Ernst does not describe nor teach developing an acquisition integration project plan that includes displaying an explanation for each pre-defined integration event including advice for performing the integration event and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event wherein the advice and the at least one sample presentation are based on prior acquisition processes.

Claim 1 recites a method performed by a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the method includes “automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user...automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, each pre-defined integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu

selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types...displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user...developing an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration...receiving the at least one user selected, pre-defined integration event for each user selected integration area...displaying the user selected, pre-defined integration events for each user selected integration area...displaying at least one of a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each user selected, pre-defined integration event...and storing the user selected, pre-defined integration events and at least one of the name of a person responsible, the due date, the completion percentage, and the commentary for each user selected, pre-defined integration event into corresponding integration areas, as the acquisition integration project plan.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method performed by a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration wherein the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the method includes automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed

including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein each pre-defined integration event is being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, and wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, and wherein the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest developing an acquisition integration project plan for a specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-

defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, wherein each selected pre-defined integration event is performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions.

Pyron does not describe or teach developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and that provides the information to perform the acquisition integration. Moreover, Pyron does not describe or teach automatically displaying on a computer a user a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

The Office Action suggests at page 3 that “displaying a list of pre-defined events is anticipated by Pyron, which discloses ‘Fig. 4.17 An outline task list’ (page 119)”. Although Pyron shows a list of tasks in Fig. 4.17, Pyron does not describe or teach automatically displaying a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user. Rather, Pyron teaches away from the present invention by describing a system where a user enters certain tasks that make up a project wherein each of these tasks have a certain duration period. In other words, Pyron describes a user inputting each task into the system, whereas the present invention describes automatically displaying a plurality of pre-defined integration events as menu selections which are selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Moreover, Pyron does not teach that these tasks are pre-defined integration events that are based upon at least one user selected integration area. In fact, the tasks in Pyron are “defined” by the user at the time the tasks are inputted in the system, and, in contrast to the present invention, the tasks in Pyron are not “pre-defined” such that these tasks are consistently described from project to project. Rather, users in Pyron can “define” each task differently from project to project – Pyron does not teach tasks being consistently defined from project to project. Moreover, Pyron does not describe, teach or even mention a plurality of integration areas. More specifically, Pyron does not describe or suggest automatically displaying a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

The Examiner has already acknowledged in a previous Office Action that Pyron does not disclose “displaying a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including advice for performing the integration event and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the advice and the at least one sample presentation are based on a prior acquisition process.” However, the Office Action suggests at page 4 that “Pyron does teach a task form that presents detailed steps in a project and includes a box incorporating project notes (page 218, Figure 9.12, “Notes”) as well as a detailed step-by-step baseline table of tasks (page 324, Figure 12.5).” Applicants respectfully submit that by merely showing a “Notes” function for formatting a task form in Figure 9.12, Pyron does not describe or teach displaying without input from a user advice for performing an integration event wherein the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event. In fact, Pyron does not describe or teach using information from prior acquisition integrations to accomplish the current acquisition integration. Moreover, the “Notes” function in Pyron enables a user to input notes into the system, and thus teaches away from the present invention which teaches displaying advice without input from the user.

Furthermore, the Office Action suggests at pages 3 and 4 that Pyron “teaches Pert charts (page 530, Figure 18.27) as a means for presenting a sample presentation of an acquisition process.” Applicants, however, respectfully submit that a Pert chart does not describe or teach displaying a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event

including at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration. Moreover, Pyron does not teach displaying a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, wherein the detailed explanation is not entered into the computer by the user.

The Office Action also suggests at page 4 that Marren teaches a method that includes “a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, each pre-defined integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process (exhibit D-3, page 497), including a pre-due diligence phase (Organization...), a due diligence phase (Due diligence phase...), a post sign/pre-close phase (Negotiating definitive agreement and closing...).” Although Marren discusses five phases of a sale process including organization, preparation of descriptive memorandum, approaching potential buyers, due diligence phase, and negotiating definitive agreement and closing, Marren does not describe or suggest automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user. In fact, Marren does not even mention a plurality of integration areas. Moreover, Marren does not describe or suggest automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Applicants respectfully submit that merely discussing the phases of a sale process and generally mentioning some of the tasks that may be performed as part of the sale process as is done in Marren does not describe or teach automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration

area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Additionally, in contrast to what is asserted by the Office Action at page 5, Marren does not describe or teach “displaying a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event (page 487-488) including a description of the integration event (Exhibit D-3, page 497). Rather, Marren merely describes the five phases of a sale process at pages 487-488, and merely lists some of the general tasks to be performed within these phases of the sale process. Marren does not describe or teach displaying without input from the user a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Additionally, Ernst does not describe or suggest the recitations included within Claim 1. Rather, Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 3-8 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3-8 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 9 recites a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes

assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the computer is programmed to “automatically display a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, each pre-defined integration event being associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types including at least one of a variety of companies and assets being acquired, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user...display without input from the user a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user...develop an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration...display at least one user selected, pre-defined integration event for each user selected integration area...display at least one of a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each user selected, pre-defined integration event...and store the user selected, pre-defined integration events and corresponding integration areas as an acquisition integration project plan.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 9. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for

performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the computer is programmed to automatically display a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, wherein each pre-defined integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, and the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types including at least one of a variety of companies and assets being acquired, and wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed to display without input from a user a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event that includes a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, and wherein the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed to develop an acquisition integration project plan for a specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, wherein each selected pre-defined integration event being performed is part of the specific acquisition integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project

and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 10-15 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of Claims 10-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10-15 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 16 recites a database for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the database includes "data corresponding to automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of integration areas is not entered into the database by the user...data corresponding to automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, each pre-defined integration event being displayed is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of pre-defined integration events is not entered into the database by the user...data corresponding to displaying without input from the user a detailed explanation of each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration

event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and the data relating to the detailed explanations is not entered into the database by the user...and data corresponding to developing an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a database as recited in Claim 16. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a database for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the database includes data corresponding to automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of integration areas is not entered into the database by the user, and data corresponding to automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of pre-defined integration events is not entered into the database by the user.

More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a database that includes data corresponding to automatically displaying without input from a user a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user

based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of integration areas is not entered into the database by the user, and automatically displaying without input from the user a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and the data relating to the plurality of pre-defined integration events is not entered into the database by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a database that includes data corresponding to displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event that includes a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, wherein the detailed explanations are not entered into the database by the user.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a database that includes data corresponding to developing an acquisition integration project plan for a specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, wherein each selected pre-defined integration event being performed is part of a specific acquisition integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 17 and 19-23 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 17 and 19-23 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 17 and 19-23 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 24 recites a system for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the system includes “a client system comprising a browser...a database comprising data corresponding to integration events for at least one integration area wherein each integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, said database further comprising data corresponding to a detailed explanation of each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration...and a server configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server further configured to automatically display on said client system a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user...automatically display on said client system a

plurality of integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types...display without input from the user the detailed explanation for each integration event...develop an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration...receive the at least one user selected integration event for each user selected integration area...display on said client system the selected integration events for each selected integration area...display on said client system at least one of a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each selected integration event...and store in the database the selected integration events and at least one of the name of a person responsible, the due date, the completion percentage, and the commentary for each selected integration event into corresponding integration areas, as an acquisition integration project plan.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system as recited in Claim 24. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the system includes a database having data corresponding to integration events for at least one integration area wherein each integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system for developing an acquisition integration project plan that includes a database having data corresponding to a detailed explanation of each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the

description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a system for developing an acquisition integration project plan that includes a server configured to automatically display on a client system a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user, automatically display on the client system a plurality of integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user, and display without input from the user the detailed explanation for each integration event.

More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a server configured to automatically display on a client system a plurality of integration areas to be selected by the user wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user, and automatically display on the client system a plurality of integration events based upon at least one user selected integration area wherein the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully submit that Claim 24 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 24 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 25-31 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 24. When the recitations of Claims 25-31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 24, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 25-31 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 32 recites a method for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the method includes “automatically displaying on an electronic interface a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user...selecting, from the electronic interface, at least one of the plurality of integration areas...automatically displaying on an electronic interface a plurality of integration events based on the at least one user selected integration area, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user...identifying, from the electronic interface, a responsible person responsible for each integration area...identifying, from the electronic interface, at least one of a person responsible and a due date for each integration event within an integration area...requesting, from the electronic interface, a percentage completion for each integration event...and requesting, from the electronic interface, a detailed explanation for an integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining the percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is

based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the method includes automatically displaying on an electronic interface a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically displaying on an electronic interface a plurality of integration events based on the at least one user selected integration area, wherein each integration event is displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process, and wherein the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest requesting from the electronic interface a detailed explanation for an integration event that includes a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, and wherein the description facilitates determining the percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 33-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32. When the recitations of Claims 33-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 33-37 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 38 recites an apparatus for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the apparatus includes “means for automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user...means for automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration events for the selected integration areas, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user...means for displaying without input from the user a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description

facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration...and means for developing an integration acquisition project plan using selected integration events, each selected integration event being performed as part of the acquisition integration.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an apparatus as recited in Claim 38. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an apparatus for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the apparatus includes means for automatically displaying on a computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, and means for automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration events for the selected integration areas wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an apparatus that includes means for displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for an integration event that includes a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining the percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Additionally, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest an apparatus that includes means for developing an integration acquisition project plan using selected integration events.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 38 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 38 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 39-43 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 38. When the recitations of Claims 39-43 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 38, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 39-43 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 44 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing acquisition integration to achieve acquisition synergies, customer satisfaction and operational excellence, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the computer program includes a code segment that “automatically displays on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user...automatically displays on the computer integration events associated with each integration area, each integration event associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the

user...displays on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration...and develops an acquisition integration plan including a set of integration events and deliverable checklists based on user selected integration areas, to guide the user through integration process.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program as recited in Claim 44. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset wherein the computer program includes a code segment that automatically displays on the computer a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, and automatically displays on the computer integration events associated with each integration area wherein the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program that includes a code segment that displays on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, wherein the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration and develops an acquisition integration plan

including a set of integration events and deliverable checklists based on user selected integration areas, to guide the user through integration process.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 44 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 44 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 45-57 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 44. When the recitations of Claims 45-57 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 44, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 45-57 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 58 recites a method for operating a computer to develop an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the method includes “prompting a user to select an integration area from an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying a plurality of integration areas on the acquisition integration main interface, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user...automatically displaying on the computer a set of selectable integration events for the selected integration area, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user...displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice

for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration...and developing an acquisition integration project plan for the acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for operating a computer as recited in Claim 58. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for operating a computer to develop an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the method includes prompting a user to select an integration area from an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying a plurality of integration areas on the acquisition integration main interface wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, and automatically displaying on the computer a set of selectable integration events for the selected integration area wherein the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for operating a computer that includes displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event that includes a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation

includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest developing an acquisition integration project plan for the acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 58 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 58 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 59-65 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 58. When the recitations of Claims 59-65 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 58, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 59-65 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 66 recites a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the computer is programmed to “prompt a user to select an integration area from a computer generated screen configured as an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying on the acquisition integration main user interface a plurality of integration areas, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections

selectable by the user...automatically display on the computer a set of selectable integration events for the selected integration area, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user...display on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration...and develop an acquisition integration project plan by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the user selected integration areas, each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 66. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the computer is programmed to prompt a user to select an integration area from a computer generated screen configured as an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying on the acquisition integration main user interface a plurality of integration areas wherein the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed to automatically display on the computer a set of selectable integration events for the selected integration area wherein the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user.

Furthermore, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed to display on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration.

Additionally, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer programmed to develop an acquisition integration project plan by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the user selected integration area.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 66 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 66 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 67-73 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 66. When the recitations of Claims 67-73 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 66, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 67-73 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claim 74 recites a computer-readable medium for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, the computer-readable medium executable by a computer for controlling the computer to “automatically display on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, plurality of pre-defined integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user...receive user selections of pre-defined integration areas...automatically display on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon the user selected integration areas, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user...receive user selections of pre-defined integration events for the selected integration areas, each integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase...display on the computer a detailed explanation for each selected pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition processes integration...and develop an acquisition integration plan with the user selected, pre-defined integration areas and integration events for a planned acquisition.”

None of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 74. More specifically, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer-readable medium for developing an acquisition integration project plan that outlines at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and provides information to perform the

acquisition integration, the acquisition integration includes assimilating an acquiring entity with at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, wherein the computer-readable medium is executable by a computer for controlling the computer to automatically display on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration areas to be selected by the user based on a type of acquisition being performed wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, and automatically display on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integrations events based upon the user selected integration areas wherein the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user.

Moreover, none of Pyron, Marren or Ernst, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer-readable medium executable by a computer for controlling the computer to display on the computer a detailed explanation for each selected pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, wherein the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, and the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition processes integration.

Rather, Pyron describes a computer application known as Microsoft Project 4 that includes a project planning function wherein a user identifies the major phases of a project and adds the components of each phase in detail until an outline of all the tasks to be performed for the project has been created; Marren is a text book that generally discusses mergers and acquisitions and how to arrive at a price to be paid for an acquisition; and Ernst is a text book that generally describes mergers and acquisitions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 74 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

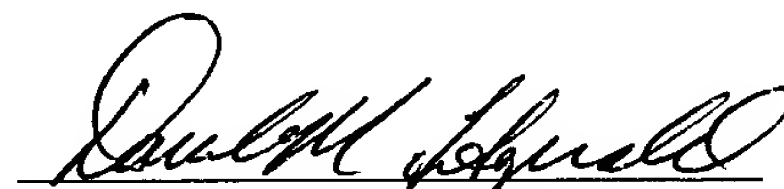
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 74 is patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

Claims 75-79 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 74. When the recitations of Claims 75-79 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 74, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 75-79 likewise are patentable over Pyron in view of Marren and in further view of Ernst.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Reg. No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070